

an unusually shocking moment which has left the people of Israel, I think, genuinely in a state of deep mourning and, frankly, deep shock that it could have happened within Israeli society.

I believe for our part, we in the Congress have an obligation to continue to work toward the dream of a peaceful and prosperous Middle East, a Middle East in which Israeli's national security is ensured within a framework of friendship and comity with its neighbors. It is a long and a difficult process, but I think any Member or citizen of this country who watched on television, who listened to the heart-rending personal statement of Prime Minister Rabin's granddaughter, anyone who saw the historic moment in which the Russian Prime Minister stood next to the American President, who stood next to the premier of Spain, who stood next to the King of Jordan; to see King Hussein back in that part of Jerusalem for the first time since his grandfather was killed while seeking peace, and then to see President Mubarak of Egypt, it was truly a historic moment, a moment that I think must have made Rabin proud to know that he had contributed with his life's work and ultimately with his life to begin to move the Middle East toward peace.

I hope all Members will join in expressing our commitment and support. I hope all of us will remember that one person can make a difference, and that this sacrifice does not have to have been in vain. I hope all of us will continue to work to strengthen the prospects of having a genuine and lasting peace in the Middle East.

LET US DEDICATE OURSELVES TO THE CAUSE OF PEACE TO ENSURE THAT PRIME MINISTER RABIN DID NOT DIE IN VAIN

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, the violent death of Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is a tragedy, not only for his family and for Israel, but for the entire world. His life spanned Israel's painful struggle for birth and survival.

His military background gave him the credentials to lead Israel in search of a secure peace. General Rabin knew how to wage war. Prime Minister Rabin knew how to make peace.

In the immortal words of Abraham Lincoln, he has given the last full measure in his devotion to peace for Israel.

We can ensure that Yitzhak Rabin will not have died in vain if we the living rededicate ourselves to the cause of peace, to carry the torch that Yitzhak Rabin held high on the road to peace for Israel and for her neighbors throughout the Middle East.

YITZHAK RABIN: WARRIOR FOR PEACE

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I have just returned from Israel, where I attended the funeral of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Today our condolences and our hearts go out to the people and friends of Israel, the Rabin family, and lovers of peace everywhere.

Prime Minister Rabin was a great man, a great statesman, and a great peacemaker. He lived his life protecting the people of Israel and gave his life trying to bring an end to the cycle of violence that has plagued his nation. He was a warrior for peace and that will be his legacy. No assassin's bullet can extinguish the flame, the dream, that Yitzhak Rabin ignited in the hearts and minds of his people. Yitzhak Rabin may no longer be with us, but his dream for a safe, secure Israel, an Israel at peace with itself and its neighbors, lives on.

We have all lost a great leader, a great man, a man of peace. Bless him.

EMULATING THE COURAGE AND DEDICATION OF PRIME MINISTER RABIN IN SUPPORTING THE PEACE PROCESS

(Mr. PAXON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAXON. Mr. Speaker, today we all come together, Christian and Jew and Moslem. We come together as people of different races and ethnicities, but we come together as Americans all, to join in mourning the tragic death of Israel Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. There is absolutely no question, Mr. Speaker, of the singular greatness of Prime Minister Rabin. He was always a man of strength who lived a life of conviction and courage. Yitzhak Rabin gave his life in a passionate search for peace for all people in the Middle East.

The only question, the only question that remains: Will we who live on be as courageous and as dedicated in picking up where he left off, in standing up for a real and just peace in the Middle East?

INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS CONFERENCE REPORT

(Mr. RICHARDSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I commend all the previous speakers for their eloquence on the assassination of Prime Minister Rabin.

Mr. Speaker, later this week the House will consider for the second time the conference report on H.R. 1977.

Even though this bill was sent back to committee, the new reported version is still completely unacceptable.

This conference report undermines our commitments to native Americans, our National Park System, and our precious national culture.

This bill slashes the budget of the National Park System at a time when more of our constituents are using the parks.

In this bill the budget for the National Park System is cut by \$68 million.

This bill provides only \$1 for management of the Mojave National Preserve, a newly established California park.

It eliminates \$15 million for efforts to improve visitor safety and security at National Parks.

Despite public outcry about exploiting our national resources, this bill allows clearcutting in the Tongass National Forest.

This bill also undermines our commitments and treaty obligations to native Americans.

In this conference report native American programs will be cut by \$184 million from last year's levels.

The crippling reductions targeted at tribes will significantly reduce support for essential tribal government services such as law enforcement, housing improvement, health care, Indian child welfare, and adult vocational training.

This conference report cuts \$136 million more from Indian programs than the original House bill.

Make no mistake that this bill also jeopardizes the ability to provide important cultural, education, and artistic programs for communities across this country.

This bill eliminates 39 percent of funding for the National Endowment for the Arts. These cuts mean less dollars for communities in your district to help them bring ballet and orchestra, opera, and theatre performances to your constituents.

I urge my colleagues to do what is right to protect our environment, to do what is right for native American children and our cultural heritage. Vote "no" on the Interior appropriations conference report.

IT IS TIME TO SAY GOODBYE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. Speaker, when this historic Congress convened, a number of us in the new majority promised our constituents that we would work hard to eliminate wasteful Federal agencies that cater to special interests. Soon we will have an opportunity to do just that by eliminating the Department of Commerce.

The Commerce Department, which was ostensibly created to promote American business interests, has evolved into a mish-mash of ineffective

and outmoded programs which soak the American taxpayer for hundreds of millions of dollars while providing precious little in return.

We promised we would balance the budget, not by raising taxes but by cutting wasteful spending. This is a perfect example, the Department of Commerce, of wasteful spending.

Mr. Speaker, we have to crack down on corporate welfare, and the Department of Commerce is a good place to begin. It is little more than a welfare department for big corporations. We should have the courage to eliminate it.

ART MODELL MUST OBEY CLEVELAND'S LAWS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, year in and year out, the Cleveland Browns averaged 70,000 paying fans a game, but owner Art Modell says that is not enough. He said he is losing money. Who is kidding whom? This move to Baltimore is nothing but a sweetheart deal for Modell and a raw deal for the city of Cleveland.

Mr. Speaker, what is the surprise? Anyone who would fire Paul Brown, trade Paul Warfield, and cut outright Bernie Kozar does not know the meaning of loyalty or community. I am asking the Ohio attorney general to enforce the contract between Cleveland Browns and the city of Cleveland. If the fine print is binding on those in the dog pound and Mayor White, the fine print should be binding on Art Modell.

THE DEMOCRATS' STRANGE VIEW OF THE BUDGET PROCESS

(Mr. WALKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, over the last several weeks, we have heard some fascinating dialog as we have discussed the budget. I think it has been particularly interesting. The Democrats, bless their hearts, have a very strange view of this whole budget process.

For example, when we actually cut spending, as we are doing in the Defense Department, so we are spending less in 1995 or in 1996 than we spent in 1995, they call that an increase; but when we increase spending in programs like Medicare above what we are spending in 1995, they call that a cut. No wonder the budgets of the United States were so screwed up for 40 years while they managed this place.

THE REPUBLICANS' ONGOING WAR AGAINST MEDICARE

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago this Congress cut \$270 billion in Medicare while increasing Pentagon spending \$7 billion more than the Pentagon itself even asked for. Why? The Speaker has said and the Republican majority has said they want to preserve and protect Medicare. They want to save it by cutting it.

Let us look at a bit of history. In 1965, when Medicare was created, 87 percent of Republicans voted against its creation.

□ 1415

In the next 20 and 30 years, Republican Members of Congress continued to try to cut Medicare. In this year, Speaker GINGRICH said, now, we did not get rid of Medicare in round one because we do not think that is politically smart, but we believe it is going to wither on the vine. That is why they are cutting Medicare. They are cutting Medicare in order to let it wither on the vine and they are cutting Medicare in order to give \$245 billion in tax cuts to the wealthy. Mr. Speaker, it simply does not make sense.

NOW IS THE TIME TO BALANCE THE BUDGET

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, the discussion going on here in Congress about balancing the Federal budget will continue on the floor this week. I think it is important to remember that every day, all across this country, millions of American families gather at the kitchen table to balance the family budget. They do not make excuses, they just do the right thing for the family.

I believe now is the time for the House and Senate to gather around the kitchen table of America and do what is right for America's future. We need to balance the budget, reform welfare, and cut taxes so that the American family will be able to keep more of their own, hard-earned paycheck. The growing expectation for a balanced budget has already caused long-term interest rates to fall, according to Alan Greenspan.

No more talking about balancing the budget, no more reading about it. Let's just do it. Let's work together at the kitchen table for the good of our Nation.

HOSPITALS WILL BE FORCED TO CHARGE MORE

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is not just seniors who will be asked to pay more under the Republican Medicare bill. Businesses and working people can expect to see that their health care costs are going to rise as well. In to-

day's health care system, private patients and their insurers pay the price for the uninsured. This cost shifting will accelerate under the Republican Medicare proposal.

According to a story that ran this weekend in the New York Times, as Medicare payments fall short of covering the cost of care, hospitals will be forced to make up the difference by charging their private patients more. Many people who work for small businesses could also lose their insurance altogether.

An independent health care research firm, Lewin VHI, estimates that \$66 billion will be shifted on to the privately insured. That is too big of a burden for our small businesses, and yet another reason to oppose the Republican Medicare cuts.

A HERO IN WAR, HE DIED FOR PEACE

(Mr. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, the epitaph of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin could fill volumes. He served his country tirelessly. He helped lead her to triumph in the 1967 war. He won the Nobel Prize for his efforts to bring her an everlasting peace.

Prime Minister Rabin had the rare ability to bring diverse people together in the pursuit of peace. He earned the admiration and the respect of the people of Israel and people throughout the world. I am shocked and saddened that such a brave man would be brought down so brutally.

So, in the great shadow of his loss, this is a sad time for Israel, America, and the world. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Rabin's family and with the people of one of America's closest allies, Israel. He will go down in history as a hero in war, he died for peace.

DAVID ROHDE HELD HOSTAGE

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, as the peace negotiations between the warring parties in the Bosnian conflict continue in Dayton, an American journalist continues to be incarcerated and held hostage by the Bosnian Serbs.

David Rohde, a journalist for the Christian Science Monitor, was responsible for exposing the killing fields near Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia. He is now being held in captivity, detained by those responsible, the Bosnian Serbs. They have charged him with, and I quote, "Illegal border crossings and falsifying documents." He has been tried and convicted by what our own State Department has called, rightfully, a kangaroo court. He has, Mr.